



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Summary

About this Release

Stats Talk is a newsletter produced by the Western Australian office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews

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A View From The Top: From Michael Tindall, the ABS WA Regional Director

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A View From The Top

From Michael Tindall, the ABS WA Regional Director

Hot on the heels of the first release of data from the 2006 Census earlier this year comes the second release of data on 25 October.

Just as we are coming to grips with the mountains of data that the first release of the 2006 Census provided, we now have the opportunity to learn about our working lives. In a time of virtual full employment here in WA, knowing what we do, how we do it and where we do it is quite probably as important as it has ever been in our history.

Information from the second release of the 2006 Census will help Government to plan for our future labour force, businesses and other employing organisations. It can also assist in the planning of recruitment and retention strategies and enable employees to plan their future careers.

Don't forget that data from the 2006 Census is available free on the web. Just go to <www.abs.gov.au/census> for all your Census needs.

While the data provided on the ABS website will give you a comprehensive picture of what Australians told us on Census night, we also recognise that you may have a need for more customised data. The ABS can provide you with those more customised solutions. Call us for a quote on our client services hotline 1300 135 070.

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Product Updates: Second release 2006 census data available soon

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Product Updates

Second release 2006 census data available soon

On 25 October, updates will be made to existing online Census products to include second release data. Some of the online products that will incorporate the new data are highlighted below!

Basic Community Profiles (updated 25 October)

Basic Community Profiles (BCPs) consist of 45 tables containing key characteristics of persons, families and dwellings. Persons data, contained in these profiles, are based on place of usual residence unless otherwise stated. Family tables have been adjusted to best fit a usual residence basis. Dwelling tables are a count of dwelling characteristics and not the persons within. BCPs are available for all Census geographic areas from Collection District level to total Australia.

Indigenous Profiles (updated 25 October)

Indigenous Profiles consist of 34 tables containing key characteristics of Indigenous persons, and households with Indigenous persons. Some tables provide comparisons with the non-Indigenous population. Persons data, contained in these profiles, are based on place of usual residence unless otherwise stated. All tables in Indigenous Profiles exclude overseas visitors and Visitor only households.

Time Series Profiles (updated 26 November)

Time Series Profiles (TSPs) consist of 25 tables containing key characteristics of persons, families and dwellings. Persons data, contained in these profiles, are based on place of enumeration. Family tables have been adjusted to best fit a usual residence basis. Dwelling tables are a count of dwelling characteristics and not the persons within. Time Series Profiles compare data from 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses where the classifications are comparable, and are based on 2006 Statistical Local Area (SLA) boundaries.

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Western Australian Statistical Indicators (WASI)

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Western Australian Statistical Indicators (WASI) (cat. no. 1367.5)

Regional Wage and Salary Earners in WA (2001/02 - 2003/04)

Rising employment opportunities and incomes have caused significant change in the distribution of wage and salary earners in WA.

The largest growth in wage and salary earners was recorded in Perth's outer metropolitan areas of Rockingham (3,131 persons) and Gosnells (3,032). Mandurah (1,839) had the largest increase outside of the Perth metropolitan area. The fastest increase in wage and salary earners was recorded in Perth - Inner (45%), reflecting the rapid development of high density residential apartments and townhouses in and around the city centre. Aside from Perth, the fastest growth was in areas surrounding Geraldton and Bunbury.

The largest increases in average annual wage and salary incomes were in Perth's inner west, mining regions and areas surrounding Geraldton. Sandstone recorded the highest growth in average wage and salaries of \$13,069, followed by Peppermint Grove (\$10,209). Sandstone also had the fastest rise in average wage and salaries of 32% over the two year period, followed by Chapman Valley (24%). In recent times, gold mining has re-emerged as the principal industry in Sandstone, while many people have re-located to other areas around Geraldton to work in local industries or commute to Geraldton for work.

Cultural Diversity in WA

In 2006, Western Australia had the highest proportion of overseas-born residents of all states and territories (27%). In 2006, England (33%) and New Zealand (9%) were the most common countries of birth for Western Australian residents born overseas, while residents from South Africa (up 11,300) showed the largest increase since 1996.

Apart from English, Italian remains the most widely spoken language in Western Australia (32,900 people). Mandarin had the largest increase in the number of speakers (up 7,500 people or 83%), while Arabic was the fastest growing language (up 103% or 3,900 people).

Christianity remained the dominant religion in WA in 2006 (1,163,000 people or 59% of state population), despite the proportion of Christians decreasing (from 66% in 1996). Catholicism (up 37,700 people or 9%) and Buddhism (up 15,800 people or 86%) had the largest increases in numbers. Hinduism had the fastest growth rate of all religions (up 124% or 4,500 people).

For further information, please contact Phil Smythe on (08) 9360 5224.

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The Journey: History of the Census

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The Journey: History of the census

Colonial Counting

Australia has a history of regular population stocktakes from the time of British settlement. From 1788, stocktakes took place in the form of musters and victualling lists, maintained to control food stores. In 1828, Australia's first census was held in New South Wales where it then became a regular occurrence. The practice was soon established amongst the other colonies.

The censuses throughout Australia were gradually made more compatible, and in 1881 a census was held simultaneously in each of the colonies. A uniform census schedule was developed for the 1901 Census, when it became clear that Federation was forthcoming.

Early Australian Censuses

The first Australian national census occurred at midnight between 2 and 3 April 1911. Tabulation of data was carried out almost entirely by hand, with staff sorting and counting over 4 million cards. Results from the 1911 census took a long time to be released and were further delayed by World War I.

The 1921 Census introduced automatic tabulation equipment, hired from England. The next Australian census was held in 1933, delayed because of the Depression. The census due to be held in the early-1940s was also delayed, until 1947, by World War II.

Times of Change

The 1960s was a time of great change in the ABS and this was reflected in several changes to the development and processing of the census. Pilot testing of the form occurred for the first time and full family and household coding was introduced. Computers were used to process data, improving data quality and increasing the range of analysis.

In 1967 the Commonwealth held a referendum resulting in an amendment of the Constitution, allowing the Indigenous population to be included in the 1971 census count.

In the 1970s a public debate emerged about privacy and the census. One of the key elements under question was the inclusion of names. Excluding names was found to reduce the accuracy of the data, as individuals were more likely to leave questions blank and post-enumeration surveys would not be possible.

The Evolving Census

New procedures to enumerate Indigenous Australians were developed in 1981, including using Aboriginal enumerators and a special form for Indigenous peoples in remote areas.

In 1986 the ABS adopted the management of the census for New South Wales and Victoria. This was previously done by the Australian Electoral Commission, which had undertaken the distribution and collection of census forms for all censuses since 1921. This move was so successful that the ABS assumed responsibility for all states in subsequent censuses.

Moving Forward

A two-stage release of data was introduced in 1996, with those topics that could be processed easily released first. In the Census conducted in 2006, the same two-stage release of data approach has been used.

A key change implemented in the 2006 Census was the ability for people to submit census responses securely via the Internet, reducing operational costs and improving the quality of the data collected. Expanding census responses via the Internet will be a major focus for the

ABS into the future.

As the demand for information grows within society, so does the significance of the census. In a world where there are often competing sources for the same information, there is still no source as comprehensive as a census.

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Census: Second Release Information

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Census: Second Release

New Statistics & Details From The 2006 Census Available Soon!

Census: Second Release

On 25 October 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will publish second release data from the 2006 Census. Second release data builds on the already extensive range of census information available.

Differing from first release data (which provides statistics relating to age, gender, country of origin and household finance etc), second release data focuses on statistics relating to Australia's workforce, level of education, the way we travel to work and internal migration.

The second release information will be made available free of charge on the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. The data will be accessible through 2006 Census products such as QuickStats, MapStats, Census Tables and Community Profiles.

The availability of the new data enables researchers, analysts and the broader community, to gain a better understanding of Australians and how they live.

The information can assist businesses and governments to make informed decisions, allowing them to better target their offerings towards the desired segments of the community.

If you have any further enquiries regarding second release census data, please contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070. Alternatively, you can email <census.users@abs.gov.au> to keep up-to-date with the latest Census developments and releases.

Workforce Analysis

Detailed occupation data is needed for analysing current and potential imbalances in the supply and demand for particular skills at the national, regional and local area levels. This information provides input to the development of policies and programs in the fields of education, training, immigration, industry and industrial relations. Occupation data is considerably more useful when analysed with detailed data on industry of employment and qualifications.

Because the census provides small area data, users can assess labour force changes for small population groups and within small geographic areas. This information is particularly useful in WA regions given the recent structural changes within the WA economy. Labour

force statistics can also be used to determine participation rates for small groups of the population such as Indigenous people, migrants from particular countries, detailed age groups, and so on.

Education in WA

Information on whether a person is attending an educational institution has important uses for education and labour market planning. The census provides a wider range of information on the characteristics of students than is currently available from statistics derived from administrative sources.

This topic is considered to be of high importance to education planners at national, state and community levels.

Information on the relationship between education and labour market activities, particularly for young people and disadvantaged groups, is required by governments to monitor the impact of their policies and programs.

While much of this need is met by data from surveys, the census provides data for small areas and for small population groups which assists in the planning and delivery of relevant programs.

Internal Migration

Statistics on usual residence one year ago and five years ago are used in the postcensal estimation of interstate migration, which in turn is used for calculating Estimated Resident Population (ERP). The census is the only source of this data.

Coupled with other census topics, the questions on usual residence provide information on characteristics of the migratory population as well as the non-migratory population. As internal migration is a major component of population change for many areas, this data is important in the calculation of population estimates and forecasts.

Information on the internal migration patterns of the population at national, state, regional and local government levels is also used in planning transport, health and educational services, and factors heavily in the release and development of land for residential and commercial purposes.

Getting to Work

Information on the direction and distance of journeys to and from work is needed for transport planning and is used extensively in land use planning in WA.

Day time population figures are important when planning for facilities in employment centres. Journeys to and from work form the largest proportion of the total number of journeys and are concentrated in peak periods which place a critical load on transport systems.

Journey to work data is required by transport authorities for the analysis of travel patterns within major metropolitan areas, the modelling of fuel usage, the forecasting of public transport patronage and the analysis of catchment areas for transport routes. This data also assists policy makers in the planning of transport systems, industrial development and the release of residential and industrial land.

Focus on the Regions

One of the key objectives of the ABS is to better inform communities about the importance and usefulness of statistics. Although the processing and compilation of data for the 2006

Census has been completed, the ABS is committed to disseminating this valuable information amongst governing bodies and the wider public, particularly in regional areas.

With this in mind, representatives from the ABS have been conducting information seminars in regional centres throughout the state, promoting 2006 Census data and the upcoming second release.

There was also a heavy emphasis on training people on how to use the ABS website and the freely available on-line services. During July and August 2007, the ABS visited towns such as Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and even communities in the Kimberley, such as Broome and Kununurra. ABS representatives also gave numerous television and radio interviews on specific aspects of the 2006 Census, which were broadcast throughout WA's regions.

The seminars were presented to various development commissions and local councils to assist them in making informed decisions in the operation of their constituencies. In addition, library staff were shown the extent of data available on the ABS website, and the best methods of accessing it. This training allows them to pass information on to the general public.

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The Road Forward: The 2011 Census and Beyond

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The Road Forward: The 2011 Census and Beyond

Collaboration & Consultation

As part of the census development process, the ABS consults widely within the community to ensure that topics to be included in the census are relevant, can be collected accurately on a self enumeration form, and do not impose an undue response burden.

To initiate public consultation regarding the nature and content of the census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases an information paper that describes the proposed procedures and topics that may be included.

The ABS will soon be inviting public comment on the content and procedures of the next census. The invitation to have a say in the way the nation's largest statistical collection is undertaken is in the 'Information Paper: 2011 Census of Population and Housing, ABS Views on Census content and procedures' and is to be released on 26 October 2007.

This is the first in a series of information papers about the 2011 Census. It marks the first step in the public consultation process for 2011 and outlines ABS proposals for the next Census, including:

- procedures for conducting the Census;
- protecting privacy of individuals;

- confidentiality of the information;
- topics to be included;
- topics under review;
- new topic proposals; and
- topics to be excluded.

The Information Paper and Submission Form will be available for free on the ABS website at <www.abs.gov.au/2011censusviews> from 26 October 2007. Information and guidelines about making a submission will also be available.

Consultation sessions for the 2011 Census are scheduled for 19 & 20 November, 2007. The sessions will discuss plans for the 2011 Census.

The Census Time Capsule

The Census Time Capsule was conducted as part of the 2006 Census, an initiative continued from the previous Census conducted in 2001. The Census Time Capsule gives people the option to have their personally-identified 2006 Census information kept on microfilm and securely held by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for 99 Years.

Information held in the 2006 time capsule will be publicly available after 8 August, 2105. Those accessing the information could include genealogists, historians, academics, social analysts and other researchers in the twenty-second century. Individuals will also have access to enable them to research their family history.

According to genealogists, when the time capsule information is released in the year 2105 it will give families a much clearer picture of their ancestry; who they were and how they lived at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

56.36% of Western Australia's usual residents (1,104,206) opted to retain their personally-identified Census information for access in 2105. This figure was slightly above the national retention rate which was 56.11%.

The ABS predicts that this figure will rise in future collections of the Census, when the adoption rate of undertaking the Census online increases. For more information, please visit the ABS website, at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>.

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Statistical News: Developments in ABS Statistics

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Statistical News: Developments in ABS Statistics

Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2007 Edition 1

This statistical overview of sports and physical recreation in Australia (cat. no. 4156.0) was released on Monday 20 August 2007.

The publication covers the output and employment of the sports and physical recreation sector, government outlays on recreation, international trade in sports and physical

recreation goods, as well as attendance and participation in sports and physical recreation activities.

For further information about these and related statistics, contact Colin Speechley on (08) 8237 7363 or the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Australian Social Trends, 2007

Australian Social Trends, 2007 (cat. no. 4102.0) was released on 7 August. This publication presents information on contemporary social issues and areas of public policy concern.

The study draws on a wide range of ABS statistics and statistics from other official sources, describing aspects of Australian society, and how these are changing over time.

The publication is designed to assist and encourage informed decision-making, and to be of value to a wide audience including those engaged in research, journalism, marketing, teaching and social policy, as well as anyone interested in how we live today and how we've changed over recent decades.

Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification, 2007

The 'Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification' (ASCG) paper was released 16 August 2007, (cat. no. 1216.0.55.001). The paper outlines a proposal to replace the current ASGC with a new Australian statistical geography.

Using a geography that remains stable allows for analysis and comparison across long time intervals, however, statistical boundaries must also reflect changes that take place in the real world. The review of the ASCG aims to produce a system that better meets the contemporary needs of users and addresses some of the shortcomings of the ASGC.

Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, Jun 2007

The information for this report has been collected and compiled from the Mineral Exploration and Petroleum Exploration Quarterly Censuses (cat. no. 8412.0).

These statistics cover private enterprises known to be conducting exploration in Australia and Australian waters.

The publication was released on 12 September 2007 and contains actual and expected exploration expenditure for the June quarter.

For further information about these and related statistics, contact Mark Busby on (02) 9268 4533.

WAIFS

Since 2005 the ABS has been working in partnership with State Government to develop a system for the coordination of government reporting against indicator frameworks.

The WA Indicator Framework System (WAIFS) allows for the storing, searching and regular updating of the statistical information related to these frameworks.

The benefits of WAIFS to State Government agencies include better access to statistical information, a reduction in the effort and cost of collecting data, and reduced demand on data custodian agencies. So far three indicator frameworks have been loaded to the test version of WAIFS, which all State Government staff can access on <http://waifsdemo.webfirm.com.au/>. For further information regarding the WAIFS project, please contact Gabriela Lawrence on (08) 9360 5205.

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Client Liaison: Summary of Events

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Client Liaison: Summary of Events

ESCG & SSCG Meetings

The consultative group meetings for this quarter revealed some common areas of interest amongst key ABS clients. The effects of the resources boom on labour supply and labour mobility were major talking points, as well as the spiralling costs of housing and construction. Clients from both groups were also interested in obtaining small area data for a variety of regions across WA.

The Economic Statistics Consultative Group (ESCG) and Social Statistics Consultative Group (ESCG) meetings enable clients of the ABS to communicate cross government statistical needs and priorities, and provide feedback on the work of the ABS. They also allow government agencies to collaborate with the ABS and other agencies in the collection and dissemination of data that would be otherwise inaccessible.

Improving Your Aim

The 2007 Marketing and Business Networking Congress was held on 31 July at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. The theme for this year's congress was 'Marketing to the Ages', a topic discussed and explored by a variety of Marketing personalities via a seminar styled discussion forum.

Wavne Rikkers, Director of the Client Liaison Unit of the ABS, delivered a presentation called 'Improving Your Aim', which highlighted the benefits of using ABS 2006 Census data to understand the demographics of target markets.

Other guest speakers included Dr. Simone Pettigrew from the University of Western Australia, Gary Roberts from Nova 93.7 and Roger James, National President of the Australian Marketing Institute.

Spreading the Word

Margaret Garner, Western Australia's ABS Information Skills Manager, has been conducting free training sessions on how to access and download Census data from the ABS website. She has visited several regions of WA, highlighting the abundance of information that is freely available.

Margaret visited the Great Southern Development Commission and the Albany Public Library. Following this, she visited the East/West Pilbara Librarians Conference in Onslow. Special thanks must be made to Jo Roach for her help in providing transport and accommodation during the visit.

During August, Margaret accompanied the WA ABS Regional Director, Michael Tindall, to Kalgoorlie. Here they met with prominent figures in the famous mining town to discuss the

results of the 2006 Census.

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Recent Releases: Publications of Interest

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Publication Title	ABS Catalogue Number
Review: Aust. Standard Geographical Classification Australian Year Book, 2007	1216.0.55.001 1301.0
Socio-Economic Indexes for Individuals and Families WA Statistical Indicators (WASI)	1352.0.55.086 1367.5
Measures of Australia's Progress:Summary Indicators Australian Demographic Statistics, Mar 2007	1383.0.55.001 3101.0
Regional Population Growth, Australia, 1996 to 2006	3218.0
Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006	3235.0
Short-term Visitor Arrival Estimates, Australia	3401.0.55.001
Guide to Migrant Statistical Sources, 2007	3414.0
Australian Social Trends, 2007	4102.0
Sports & Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview General Social Survey, Western Australia, 2006	4156.0 4159.5.55.001
Australian National Accounts	5206.0
Housing Finance, Australia, Jul 2007	5609.0
Job Vacancies, Australia, Aug 2007	6354.0
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Dec 2006	6416.0
Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Jun 2007	8412.0

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The December quarter edition of Stats Talk WA will be the final edition for 2007 and will feature a detailed update of the WA Indicator Framework System - WAIFS

In addition to this, Stats Talk WA will provide an update on ABS client activity in Western Australia, as well as highlighting relevant information on new statistical developments, projects, publications, seminars and training sessions.

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